

INSTRUCTION FOR LISTERS

Three Counties of State Represented at Local Session.

State Tax Commissioner Plimley Talks on Vermont Assessment Laws—Reference to Officers—Vote on Tax Officials' Association.

Charles A. Plimley of Northfield, State tax commissioner, met about 150 tax listers at the city hall in this city last Thursday afternoon for a session of instruction and the entire afternoon from one to six o'clock was taken up with talks by Commissioner Plimley and Ames J. Eaton of South Royalton, a member of the State board of forestry, who spoke on forestry taxation. The listers who met for the instruction in Burlington last Thursday represented Chittenden and Grand Isle counties and part of Lamoille county.

Mr. Plimley's talk was of a very informal nature and he was interrupted many times to answer questions put to him by the listers. The lister, he said, is the most important official in the whole scheme of general property taxation and his office requires the exercise of impartiality and good judgment. Every effort to broaden the vision should be concentrated on him and his work. The form of inequitable taxation finds its origin in the local assessment and every step taken outside the path as marked by the statutes leads to greater inequalities. The law prescribes the standard of value, the plan to be followed, and the lister is armed and equipped as the law directs. While he does not make nor is responsible for the law, he has taken his oath to enforce it, and if a law is inequitable or unjust the surest way to get it corrected is to enforce it impartially. It is the lister's duty to see that he who has been paying too much pays less and he who has not been paying enough pays his full share. A five per cent. individual does not entitle a man to claim the benefit of an offset. It is only indebtedness on which six per cent. or over is paid that entitles the taxpayer to an offset. Mr. Plimley went over with the listers illustrative examples covering the matter of offsets involving the particular problems which the listers will be apt to encounter in their work. These examples, copies of which were distributed among the listers, are based on section four of number 21 of the acts of 1915 and will greatly simplify the work of the listers if followed.

Commissioner Plimley distributed a bulletin showing the number of peddlers' licenses now issued in the State, the law relating to them and the disposition made of the fees received. The fees are distributed among the various towns "for the purpose of equalizing opportunity in the public educational system." Mr. Plimley has drawn a bill for introduction at the next session of the Legislature which places the granting of licenses of peddlers under the supervision of the tax department and provides that no local license can be granted except upon presentation to the local authorities of a State license. Mr. Plimley also discussed changes made in the tax laws through legislation.

Steps were taken toward the formation of the Tax Officials' association of Vermont. The tentative constitution of such an association had been distributed and cards were given out which gave each of the listers present an opportunity to vote for or against the constitution and the four principal officers who would serve until the annual meeting in July. The association is formed for the dissemination of information concerning, and a better understanding of tax laws, and administration and enforcement of

A Better Position

is within the reach of those who graduate from the

110 Church Street, Burlington.

CLUBBING LIST.

The Free Press and Other Periodicals at Low Rates to One Address.

The Weekly FREE PRESS can be obtained in combination with other leading periodicals at low rates. To prevent unnecessary correspondence we will state that after the subscription has begun notice of a change of address, or anything concerning the receipt of the other periodicals, should be sent directly to the office of that periodical.

The Weekly FREE PRESS and any one of the following periodicals will be sent to any one address in the United States for one year at the prices annexed:

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Subscribers may have more than one paper from this clubbing list. Always send a stamp for reply when asking.

HOW MRS. DEAN MET THE CRISIS

Carried Safely Through Change of Life by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Nashville, Tenn.—"When I was going through the Change of Life I had a tumor as large as a child's head. The doctor said it was three years coming and gave me medicine for it until I was called away from the city for some time. Of course I could not go to him then, so my sister-in-law told me that she thought



Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound would cure it. It helped both the Change of Life and the tumor and when I took home I did not need the doctor. I got the Pinkham remedies until the tumor was gone, the doctor said, and I have not felt it since. I tell every one who I was cured. If this letter will help others you are welcome to use it."

—Mrs. E. H. BEAN, 525 Joseph Avenue, Nashville, Tenn.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, a pure remedy containing the extractive properties of good old-fashioned roots and herbs, meets the needs of woman's system at this critical period of her life. Try it.

If there is any symptom in your case which puzzles you, write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

them. The association will be made up of listers and other officials connected with the administration of the tax law of Vermont. The annual meeting will also be of great value in getting together listers and officials from all over the State at one central point. The four principal officers nominated are: President, Charles A. Plimley; vice-president, H. M. Gaylord; secretary, George H. Tupper; treasurer, E. L. Field.

APPROVED IN FRANCE.

The Le Ripolin building situated on a wharf beside the Seine river, Paris, France, was recently roofed with our Compu-roofing. Samples free. Strong Hardware Co., Burlington, Vt.

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS.

Board for Chittenden County Identical with Last Year's.

The license commissioners for Chittenden county appointed by Judges Fred W. Hall of Essex and Henry W. Tracy of Shelburne, assistant judges of county court, and which were filed March 23 at the office of the clerk of county court, are the same who served last year. They are as follows: For Burlington, C. A. Barber, J. M. Clarke and J. H. Middlebrook; for Shelburne, T. B. Webster, H. F. Saxton and George Palmer; for Colchester, George T. Graves, Charles H. Shipman and H. G. Harthorne.

WIDOW ASKS ALIMONY.

Mother Claims Ownership of Estate in Question—Decision Reserved.

There was a hearing before Judge J. H. Macomber, judge of probate court, March 23 at his office in the county court house on a petition brought by Mrs. Charles M. Rollison, widow of the late Charles M. Rollison, in regard to the estate of her late husband, asking for a widow's alimony. J. H. Donohue appeared for the petitioner and W. A. Porter of Carthage, N. Y., appeared for Mrs. Pamela Porter, mother of the deceased. Thomas Reeves, administrator, appeared for himself. It was claimed by the petitioner that there were deposits in banks and stocks which amounted to a large amount, namely, about \$5,000. The mother claimed that the property had been transferred to her by her son prior to his death, that she was the owner and that there was no estate from which allowance might be ordered by the court for the widow. All agreed that the court should hold the case open for the purpose of testing similar cases in other courts.

REMAINS IN FAIR HAVEN.

The Rev. R. W. Macdonald Will Not Come to St. Paul's.

It is announced that the Rev. Roy W. Macdonald of St. Luke's, Fair Haven, who was to become curate of St. Paul's Church in this city May 1, has on account of pressure brought by his parishioners there written to the Rev. George W. Davenport, rector of St. Paul's, asking to be released from a his acceptance, and the release has been granted.

Ever since the announcement of Mr. Macdonald's acceptance his parishioners at St. Luke's and a number of other citizens of Fair Haven have been active in their efforts to retain him. He has been actively identified with public affairs there aside from his parish duties. The Rev. Mr. Davenport was reluctant to release him.

PASSING THOUGHTS.

Fashion's changes, more than wear and tear, are the life of trade in things to wear.

The abbreviation "Jo" for "John" looks as if it had been originated by someone who thought the name was spelled "Jo" and then got his letters mixed.

Outside of newspaper offices the belief prevails that ability to run a newspaper is one of the things with which all humanity is endowed.

Quoting statistics to prove something is usually safe, even if they are not correct, since few take the trouble to inform themselves about them.

That poets are born is true, but also it is true that many persons are born with the false belief that they are poets.

It's a wise prize fighter who doesn't let his punch demolish his bank account.

—Albany Journal.

HIGH SHOE PRICES

Radical Styles in Women's Shoes and Extravagant Prices Paid.

War Effects on Manufacturing with Increased Cost of Leather and Other Raw Materials Felt by Public.

(From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Prices on shoes to the public as a result of postwar conditions in supplies of leather and other materials due to the war have already been advanced as much as \$1 to \$1.50 a pair in special instances by retailers, and the end is not in sight, according to the retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers. The advances so far made are not confined to the uniformity of increase on all grades, for all manufacturers have not yet been fully concerned in the higher cost of leathers, etc. For a well known line, however, of men's medium fine shoes, selling above \$5 a pair retail, it is learned that the advance in the past year or so amounts as much as \$1 to \$1.50 a pair. The number of one of the stores on Broadway selling this line stated that their new spring shoes would have advanced prices about 20 cents a pair for the past two seasons. This line of men's shoes which used to start at \$5 a pair, it is said, now begins at \$7 a pair.

For the mass of men's shoes sold at retail it is impossible to learn just what the advances so far made amount to, since the general tendency is to re-adjust values to preserve as much as possible the old prices to which the public has become used. But it is certain that there has been already a grading upward, by which manufacturers have eliminated the lower price numbers. One manufacturer, for example, who used to make grades from \$2 a pair up has dropped out the \$2 grade and is featuring the grade to retail at \$5.

That the future contains uncertainties even more pronounced as to their effect on prices than events that have already taken place is shown in the fact that some manufacturers of women's shoes are advertising their latest styles to their retail customers without quoting prices, there to be determined by conditions when orders are to be filled. Along the same line there are instances of tanners of leather who will not quote prices for the future because they do not know what the prices of hides and skins will be, whether, in fact, they will be able to get certain raw materials of this kind. They are doing business on the leather they own and of the cost of which they are certain.

When it comes to women's shoes there is practically no basis of comparison, retailers state, by which price advances can be determined. There have been no standards from year to year since the so-called "military shoes" of high fashion distinction came into existence. New York retailers and retailers, no doubt of other large cities, find that value or economic considerations have no part in the purchase of a good pair of the footwear sold to women. The final choice is not one of price, but of style or of material. In consequence, the quantities of women's shoes being sold in the large cities at prices from the \$10.00 a pair mark and considerably above is very large. Whereas the men's custom made shoes, selling in limited quantities at such prices, are purchased with the first consideration of fit and also for the high value in material and simple elegance, the women's shoes, retailers freely admit, are selected at such prices purely from a fashion standpoint, and are limited in number of pairs almost, it might be said, to a number of gowns they are to match.

There can, therefore, be no deduction arrived at as to the higher costs at retail of many women's shoes, since the styles of this season had no counterpart a year ago. Just now the tendency above all times, when fine kid leathers are scarce, is to make women's shoe tops higher, thereby taking more leather. The new spring styles in women's footwear show an inclination on the part of the designers to lean in better acquainted with the rapidly shortening skirts. In view of the fact that fine colored kid leather used in the tops of the present shoes by women has advanced in price by 50 per cent since July and that more leather is needed in addition per pair it is inevitable that women's shoes are selling at very high prices compared with a year ago. About this time last year the style feature of women's shoes was colored tops of cloth, a somewhat more practical and economical fashion than colored kid leather, but that style soon passed.

It goes without saying that a considerable part of women's shoes sold, as in men's, consists of staple, plain footwear in black, buff, or tan in leather. These shoes naturally are advancing in proportion as the standard men's shoes are. That they have to be higher in price is in part due, no doubt, to the extreme fashion vogue along lines which consume unusual quantities of leather and of the best qualities.

As to the causes incident to the war in Europe which have brought about the situation in shoes not encountered in many years by manufacturers there are three or four outstanding ones. First of all, some of the countries at war, such as France, Russia, Germany, etc., supplied this country in peace times with raw materials, such as hides and skins or tanned leather. These imports from such countries are now entirely shut off, or in large part. The demand likewise of the war for footwear to be used in a military way has been large. Immense quantities of good leather going into high soldier boots, many of which were made in American shoe factories.

There have been various other restrictions placed by the nations at war on exports of leather just as in other lines of materials of first military importance. Furthermore, this government, by putting stringent restrictions on imported leather stock as to disinfection to prevent anthrax, has made the difficulties of the leather makers that much more serious, especially in kid leathers. These regulations have become more onerous with the increasing scarcity of hides, and especially goat and sheep skins. Imports of needed skins from India and China are thereby held up.

Back of all the situation as to supplies of raw materials of course is the fact that the shoe business of this country, just like the business of most kinds during the past six or eight months, has been very large. Retailers have done a much larger business than for years and having, as in most other merchandise, been going from hand to mouth in advance ordering for several years, it did not take long for the new boom to clean out stocks. The replacement of stocks to a normal level, therefore, alone would mean an extra heavy demand on the manufacturers. Shoe business in consequence has brought out the shortage in materials.

To illustrate the extreme advances in various raw materials that manufacturers have had to meet in recent months, a table compiled by a Boston trade paper, the Weekly Bulletin of Leather and Shoe News, presents the situation authentically. This table shows that there has been since June last year an increase in the cost of calf leather used in men's shoes to retail at \$5 a pair of about 30 per cent.

Fine colored glazed kid leather has increased in price 50 per cent, and average cost of kid leather to go into \$10.00 shoes is \$12.50. Dressing linings suitable for men's shoes retail at \$4 to \$10 a pair have advanced over 25 per cent. per yard. Twill suitable for women's shoes retailing at \$4 to \$10 a pair have advanced 33 1/3 per cent. per yard.

There has been an enormous increase in the cost of shoe laces, the price, for example, for \$1 to \$5 shoes jumping from 90 cents per gross to \$1.25 per gross in nine months. Sole leather has advanced from 42 cents a pound in January, 1915, to 56 cents a pound at present, and outsoles for women's shoes have advanced from 20 cents in July last to 31 cents this month, also outsoles for men's shoes from 40 cents last July to 47 cents at present.

Shoe manufacturers and distributors cannot see how shoes for an indefinite time can be any lower, with the chances of their being higher, unless conditions now holding back raw material supplies are suddenly changed. Just when that is to come or what its actual effect will be cannot be foreseen, therefore, they say, only conduct their business as actual circumstances compel.

CITROLAX

Best thing for constipation, sour stomach, lazy liver and sluggish bowels. Stops a sick headache almost at once. Gives a most thorough and satisfactory flushing—no pain, no nausea. Keeps your system cleansed, sweet and wholesome. Ask for Citrolax. J. W. O'Sullivan. (Adv.)

PHONE CHAPTER MEETS.

Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts Represented at Conference.

About 150 employees of the New England Telephone and Telegraph company and affiliated companies in the State of Vermont, with several companies outside the State, met in the city March 23 to attend a joint meeting consisting of morning and afternoon sessions for the different departments and the meeting of the Vermont Chapter of the Telephone and Telegraph society of New England in the evening. A pleasant feature of the day was the dinner served at the Hotel Vermont at six o'clock in the evening, for which 75 covers were laid.

The morning session was held at the main office of the New England company and was divided up into three meetings for the plant, traffic and commercial departments. A joint conference of these three departments was held on the roof garden of the Hotel Vermont in the evening presided over by the district manager, W. T. Duffey of the plant department and S. F. Parker of the traffic department. Following the dinner adjournment was taken to the roof where William A. Shaw, forecaster at Northfield, gave a lecture on weather conditions and their effect on the work of the telephone companies. His lecture was illustrated by stereopticon slides. This meeting was for all employees of the companies and was largely attended. A short business meeting of the chapter held just previous to the day was presided over by the president, J. H. Gowdrey.

Besides the New England company there were several representatives present from the Passumpsic, Franklin county, Vermont and Champlain Valley Telephone companies of this State, the Coss Telephone company of northern New Hampshire, the Manchester district of the New England, the Granville Telephone company of New York and the Pittsfield district of Massachusetts.

Among the hosts of companies present were L. W. Whitney, general commercial superintendent of the New England company from Boston, C. A. Brown, general manager of the Passumpsic, John Gowdrey of the Vermont Telephone company, E. J. St. Clair, general manager of the Franklin county Telephone company, William Lewis, general manager of the Coss company, and H. G. Moulton of this city, counsel for the Burlington Telephone company, an extension of time from July 1 to October 1 was agreed upon, before the decision of the Vermont public service commission in the case between the two corporations should be completed with. An appeal from the decision of the public service commission in this case has been made by the Burlington Telephone company to the supreme court and will be heard at the May term of court.

The decision by the Vermont public service commission in the case of the Western Union Telegraph company vs. the Burlington Telephone company, was announced on February 22, ordered the latter company to separate bereft of the supreme court and the decision of its high tension line extending about 11 miles between Queen City Park and Ferrisburg to a minimum distance of 30 feet from the lines of poles of the Western Union Telegraph company parallel thereto on the west side of the railroad track, or as an alternative the supreme court may, at its discretion, current over said 18 sections after such date until such separation was made. This decision was based on the finding that the operation of these sections of the high tension line of the Burlington Telephone company at the proximity now existing between them and the Western Union Telegraph lines adjacent thereto was dangerous.

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Vermont Notes

News of the State Gathered Here and There.

Case Is Concluded after 16 Years—M. W. Nelson, Barre Granite Company Head, Dies.

A lawsuit that has been in the courts of Vermont for 16 years, and in which the city of North Adams, Mass., was in reality the defendant, has been decided in Bennington county court in favor of Tice Niles of Pownal, the plaintiff. The action was brought by Niles against Hastings Murphy, a caretaker of the Broadbrook property of the city of North Adams, Mass., located in Pownal, and trespass was alleged. Murphy having been accused of removing wood from a tract of land that Niles claimed was his and not the property of North Adams. The plaintiff offered at one time to settle the case for \$50, but this was refused and the issue dragged along in the courts from one year to another until it was finally decided a short time ago. The evidence was taken by Charles L. Howe of Rutland, as referee, and judgment was in favor of Niles for \$134.15 damages and \$162.85 for costs. The land in dispute comprises about 25 acres of woodland in a remote section of the town of Pownal.

HEAD OF GRANITE FIRM DIES.

Michael W. Nelson, prominently identified with the Barre granite industry for more than a score of years, and latterly president of the Dawey Column & Cutting company, died Saturday.

HEALTHY WOLCOTT TRIPLETS.

The triplets of Mr. and Mrs. Alvah W. Foster of Wolcott are nearly a year old and are all healthy, active, and weigh 15 pounds each. The frequency with which the birth of twins has occurred in the families of the triplets' ancestors is remarkable. The father was a twin. A sister of Mr. Foster's mother, Mrs. A. L. Jennings of Plover, is the mother of twins, Rev. B. L. Jennings, a Methodist minister in Worcester, and Miss Bertha Jennings also of Worcester. On Mrs. Foster's side there were two sets of twins in her father's family and twins were also born to her parents. She has an uncle in Morrisville who is a twin and is also the father of twins. The presentation of triplets is a rare occurrence, and the Foster family is fortunate in having them.

WINS DURANT SCHOLARSHIP.

Miss Lois Cassidy, a junior at Wellesley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Cassidy of Rutland, has received the honor of the Durant scholarship. The Durant scholarship stands for high average excellence.

CHESTER HAS BOARD OF TRADE.

A board of trade has been formed at Chester with A. W. Harvey as president. Meetings are to be held the first Tuesday of every month. Summer boarders will be one of the special things sought for and it is expected there will be double the number from last season, which was large. Chester is on the "ideal" automobile route from Manchester to Lake Sunapee and the White mountains. There are already about 40 members in the organization composed of leading business men and others who will act permanently in that work.

ATTACKED BY MUSKRAT.

Amos J. Eaton of South Royalton, a member of the State board of forestry, was attacked by a muskrat in Bennington while taking a morning walk. The big rodent bit holes in Mr. Eaton's rubbers and gave other evidence of an attack of the animal. Eaton first noticed the rat in the center of the road near the mill of the Cooper Manufacturing Co. It was traveling between the two banks made by snow shoveled from the trolley tracks. When he approached from the side of the street, thus placing himself between the rat and its natural habitat, the river, the animal immediately resented the interference and showed fight. With his foot Mr. Eaton pushed the animal into the snow where it was captured by some boys.

VERMONT BREVITIES.

Seventeen were candidates for the three local committee seats in Barre. Bennington's new curfew will ring at 9:15 and children will have 15 minutes to get home.

A party of 43 high school pupils left Brattleboro Saturday on the seventh annual trip to Washington.

The Rev. George A. Oaman is to leave the Advent Christian Church, Rutland, for the pastorate of the First Advent Christian Church, Los Angeles.

DELAYS MOVING WIRES.

Agreement That Traction Company May Await Decision of Supreme Court.

At a conference held Sunday evening at the Van Ness House between W. B. C. Stickney of Rutland, attorney for the Western Union Telegraph company, and A. G. Whittemore and Sherman R. Moulton of this city, counsel for the Burlington Traction company, an extension of time from July 1 to October 1 was agreed upon, before the decision of the Vermont public service commission in the case between the two corporations should be completed with. An appeal from the decision of the public service commission in this case has been made by the Burlington Traction company to the supreme court and will be heard at the May term of court.

ESTABLISH MOERIS GROTTO.

Hanquet Follows Installation of Officers of Velled Prophets.

The charter members of Moeris Grotto, Mystic Order of the Velled Prophets of the Esoteric Realm, met at the Star Rooms in the Masonic Temple Saturday evening to take the obligation of the realm and for the installation of the officers who will serve until the time of the annual meeting in June. The installing officer was William H. Snyder of Elmira, N. Y., grand monarch of the supreme council, and he was assisted in the installation service by Roger S. Pike of Rutland, acting as grand marshal.

The officers installed were as follows: Monarch, T. W. Gurney; chief justice, C. A. Davis; master of ceremonies, C. D. Simonds; secretary and treasurer, E. W. Chambers. Following the installation service Grand Monarch Snyder in a brief address outlined the work of the grotto and the duties of the local grotto to take preparatory to their request for a charter at the annual supreme council to be held this year in June at Detroit.

Following the meeting a banquet of several courses was served with impromptu by several persons.

Get the attention, now, of the people who expect to move a little later.

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Crops That Count

One big crop counts much, but it is the same first-class yield year after year that brings in the money. And to keep your soil rich and fertile, you must restore the food that crops take away—nature's food. Good seed, good crops and good money are the results of using nature's fertilizer of BONE, BLOOD and MEAT.

Lowell Animal Fertilizers are the right fertilizers because they are made out of BONE, BLOOD, MEAT and high grade chemicals.

Lowell Fertilizers not only make one crop grow, but they enrich the soil and make it continually productive.

Try feeding your soil with animal food—it is the very thing to make abundant crops.

See the Lowell agent nearest you. It will pay you to have a talk with him about our fertilizers.

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